

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-7 canceled.

8. (new) A portable, hand carried apparatus comprising a combination of hardware and software sufficient to record, update, and access a person's medical history using an electronic device having a processor that is capable of accessing the apparatus without the need for special software, and without the need for access to a website or to a database of medical records, that is external to the apparatus, the apparatus comprising:
 - (a) machine-readable memory and a USB connector connectible to a USB port of an electronic device for access to the machine-readable memory of the apparatus by the electronic device;
 - (b) machine-executable instructions contained in the machine-readable memory and constituting a program executable by the electronic device for performing a method comprising the steps of,
 - (i) storing medical records in a secure database in the machine-readable memory of the portable, hand carried apparatus,
 - (ii) updating the medical records in the secure database in the machine-readable memory of the portable, hand carried apparatus, and
 - (iii) providing access to the medical records in the secure database in the machine-readable memory of the portable, hand carried apparatus.
9. (new) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the program stores, updates, and provides access to medical records only for a single individual.
10. (new) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising data contained in the machine-readable memory and constituting the secure database of medical records, which the program stores and updates, and to which the program provide access.
11. (new) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the secure database is encrypted.

12. (new) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the secure database includes information pertinent to the treatment of a person, comprising:
 - (a) personal information including name, address, phone, and emergency contact information;
 - (b) emergency medical information including medical alerts, blood type, allergies
 - (c) current medical information including primary physician contact, medical conditions, medications, and treatments;
 - (d) historical medical information including a log of medical office visits, physicians, images from medical scans, a log of vital statistics, immunizations, and surgeries; and
 - (e) insurance information including referral letters.
13. (new) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said step (i) of storing medical records comprises inputting medical information into the program.
14. (new) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said step (i) of storing medical records comprises inputting medical information into the program by scanning, keying, or downloading.
15. (new) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said step (i) of storing medical records comprises importing medical information into the program from various file formats.
16. (new) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said step (ii) of updating medical records comprises appending medical information to a medical record without deleting any medical information existing in the medical record.
17. (new) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the program does not provide the functionality of deleting medical information in the secure database.
18. (new) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the program does not provide the functionality of deleting a medical record from the secure database.

19. (new) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the electronic device comprises a PC, and wherein said step (iii) of providing access comprises outputting a medical record from the secure database to the PC.
20. (new) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said step (iii) of providing access comprises printing and displaying medical information from one or more medical records in the secure database.
21. (new) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the method performed by the program further comprises the step of displaying a person's medical history when the USB connector is connected to a USB port of the electronic device.
22. (new) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the program further performs the steps of dating and time stamping added medical information and the identification of the party adding the medical information.
23. (new) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the program further performs the steps of generating a report of medical information added to the secure database, the report including the party that added the medical information and the date and time that such medical information was added to the secure database.
24. (new) A portable, hand carried nonvolatile memory device comprising a combination of hardware and software sufficient to record, update, and access a person's medical history using an electronic device having a processor and that is capable of accessing the nonvolatile memory device without the need for special software, and without the need for access to a website or to a database of medical records, that is external to the nonvolatile memory device, the nonvolatile memory device comprising:
 - (a) machine-readable memory configured for access by the electronic device capable of accessing the nonvolatile memory device; and
 - (b) machine-executable instructions contained in the machine-readable memory and constituting a program executable by the electronic device for performing a method comprising the steps of,

- (i) storing medical records in a secure database in the machine-readable memory of the portable, hand carried memory device,
- (ii) updating the medical records in the secure database in the machine-readable memory of the portable, hand carried memory device, and
- (iii) providing access to the medical records in the secure database in the machine-readable memory of the portable, hand carried memory device.

25. (new) The device of claim 24, wherein the memory device comprises a USB drive, a memory stick, or a flash memory card.

26. (new) A handheld memory device, comprising:

- (a) machine-readable memory configured for access by any general computer that is capable of accessing the handheld memory device; and
- (b) machine-executable instructions contained in the machine-readable memory and constituting a program executable by the general computer for performing a method comprising the steps of,
 - (i) storing medical records in a secure database in the machine-readable memory of the handheld memory device,
 - (ii) updating the medical records in the secure database in the machine-readable memory of the handheld memory device, and
 - (iii) providing access to the medical records in the secure database in the machine-readable memory of the handheld memory device;
- (c) wherein the combination of hardware and software of the device is sufficient to record, update, and access a person's medical history using a general computer capable of accessing the handheld memory device without the need for software specific to the program, and without the need for access to a website or to a database of medical records, that is external to the memory device.

27. (new) The device of claim 26, wherein the device comprises a USB drive, a memory stick, or a flash memory card.